

Message

From: Enobakhare, Rosemary [Enobakhare.Rosemary@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/5/2022 7:25:40 PM
To: Michalos, Maria [Michalos.Maria@epa.gov]; Jenkins, Brandi [Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov]
CC: Wise, Allison [Wise.Allison@epa.gov]; Cortez Russell, Loni [Russell.Loni@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Why Daniel for this quote? I think it should be from Robin.

From: Michalos, Maria <Michalos.Maria@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 3:23 PM
To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Cc: Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Enobakhare, Rosemary <Enobakhare.Rosemary@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Brandi, I am ok with providing a quote. But adding Rosemary who works regularly with this group in case she has any concerns.

From: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 3:22 PM
To: Michalos, Maria <Michalos.Maria@epa.gov>
Cc: Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Maria – see the email below from Moms Clean Air Force. They'd like to add a quote from Daniel. A couple of questions I have is that if we've ever been the subject of litigation with this organization, I don't think we should, but I may be overthinking it. What are your thoughts?

Thanks,
Brandi

From: Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 2:22 PM
To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Wilborn, Janay <Wilborn.Janay@epa.gov>; Sam Schmitz <sschmitz@momscleanairforce.org>
Cc: Champagne, David <Champagne.David@epa.gov>; Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>; Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>
Subject: Re: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Brandi,
Here is the draft that will be published on our website.

TITLE: Why It's Important to Know about the EPA's New Office of Environmental Justice

On Sept 26, 2022, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched its Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) whose mission is to provide leadership for the agency for its environmental justice and external civil rights priorities. Because Moms Clean Air Force, since its inception, has consistently advocated for and supported environmental and health justice for Black, Brown and low wealth communities, the creation of the OEJECR aligns with Moms Clean Air Force's goals to implement equitable solutions in addressing air pollution and the climate crisis.

EPA announced the opening of the OEJECR or Office of Environmental Justice in Warren County, North Carolina which is considered to be the birthplace of environmental justice because of its history of a dangerous chemical waste landfill being located in the county over 40 years ago despite protests by the African American community. At that time Warren County residents had the lowest per capita state income and represented the largest concentration of Black people in North Carolina.

While Warren County is known as the birthplace of environmental justice, Dr. Robert Bullard is known as the 'Father of Environmental Justice.' Dr. Bullard defines environmental justice as "equal protection and equal enforcement of environmental laws and regulations." <https://drrobertbullard.com/> He notes that pollution is correlated highly with race and class creating injustice and vulnerability for low-wealth communities and communities of color. The EPA's definition of environmental justice also emphasizes the importance of equitable development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies.
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/about-office-environmental-justice-and-external-civil-rights>

Dr. Bullard was among the many climate leaders supporting the creation of the Office of Environmental Justice. "For decades, communities of color and low-income communities have faced disproportionate impacts from environmental contamination and for decades we have been fighting to elevate their stories and deliver protections equally, for everyone," he explained, "EPA's efforts under this new office will deliver progress for the communities that need action now."

The Office of Environmental Justice will be tasked with distributing \$3 billion in environmental justice grants that was allocated as a result of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Law. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/08/15/by-the-numbers-the-inflation-reduction-act/>

INSERT REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR DANIEL BLACKMAN'S QUOTE

This office will staff over 200 EPA officials and will work to facilitate communities' access to these grants by providing technical assistance in addition to working on environmental conflict resolution and enforcing civil rights laws. <https://www.reuters.com/business/environment/us-epa-launches-environmental-justice-office-2022-09-25/>

"The creation and mission of the EPA Office of Environmental Justice is another important step in assuring that Black, Brown and low wealth communities are no longer disproportionately burdened by the impacts of the climate crisis," Moms National Manager for Health Equity shared, "Equally important is that our communities must become actively engaged in monitoring how these valuable resources are used by the EPA and other agencies and at the state level. Our communities must speak up about the useful and effective implementation of these resources and must hold elected officials and regulators accountable."

We encourage you to reach out to your regional EPA offices here to share the importance of environmental justice and thank them for their ongoing work to keep our communities healthy and safe!
<https://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/forms/contact-epa>

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From: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>

Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 1:50 PM

To: Wilborn, Janay <Wilborn.Janay@epa.gov>, Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>, Sam Schmitz <sschmitz@momscleanairforce.org>

Cc: Champagne, David <Champagne.David@epa.gov>, Wise, Allison <Wise.Allison@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Thank you for your email. Is there a draft press release we can review? I would need to see it before we are able to provide a quote.

Thank you,

Brandi Jenkins, Public Affairs Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 4
404-562-9124 (office)
678-575-2148 (cell)

Twitter: [@EPASoutheast](#)

Facebook: [U.S. EPA Southeast Region](#)

Webpage: [EPA Region 4 \(Southeast Region\)](#)

From: Wilborn, Janay <Wilborn.Janay@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:46 PM

To: Almeta Cooper <acooper@moms-clean-air-force.org>; Sam Schmitz <sschmitz@moms-clean-air-force.org>

Cc: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>; Champagne, David <Champagne.David@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Thank you Almeta!

Please excuse our tardiness in our reply. We have been swamped with our response to Ian and Jackson, Mississippi.

Brandi and I spoke about your email this morning, and I am copying RA Blackman's Chief of Staff, David of this correspondence as well.

Brandi,
Per our conversation this morning.

David,
Per our teams call.

JaNay

From: Almeta Cooper <acooper@moms-clean-air-force.org>

Sent: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 1:12 PM

To: Jenkins, Brandi <Jenkins.Brandi@epa.gov>

Cc: Wilborn, Janay <Wilborn.Janay@epa.gov>; Sam Schmitz <sschmitz@moms-clean-air-force.org>; Almeta Cooper <acooper@moms-clean-air-force.org>

Subject: TIME SENSITIVE Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Brandi,

I am reaching out to you for a quote to be used in an article to be published by Moms Clean Air Force. At the Advancing Equity session at the CBC Annual Legislative Conference last week Mr. Blackman kindly agreed to provide a quote. (Janay Wilborn was also there and he asked her to facilitate.)

Moms is asking for a quote of about 50 words or less from Mr. Blackman. Because we are working on deadline-- it would be helpful to have the quote today.

Also, it would be helpful for the quote to align with Mr. Blackman's remarks at the session about the importance of getting the word out to communities, especially Black, Brown and low wealth communities for them to know what

resources are available from the EPA Office of Environmental Justice. Our article is titled, *Why It's Important to Know about the EPA's New Office of Environmental Justice*.

Do you have a preferred link to all the regional offices so that readers will know how to contact their respective EPA regional office?

For you quick reference about Moms Clean Air Force (a national nonprofit of 1 million moms, dads & caregivers) you can find our website [here](#) and for information about our Georgia activity please read [here](#).

Thank you!
Almeta Cooper

Almeta E. Cooper
National Manager, Health Equity
Moms Clean Air Force
acooper@momscleanairforce.org
Twitter: @CleanAirMoms,@MomsHealthEQ
Facebook: <https://www.momscleanairforce.org/>

From: Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>
Date: Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at 12:27 PM
To: wilborn.janay@epa.gov <wilborn.janay@epa.gov>
Cc: Sam Schmitz <sschmitz@momscleanairforce.org>, Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>
Subject: FW: Follow up re Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Dear Janay,
Bumping up this request up for action. We are working on a deadline, and it would be very helpful to have Mr. Blackman's quote today. Please put me in contact with your comms person, Brandy(?).
Thank you.

Almeta
Almeta E. Cooper
National Manager, Health Equity
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Facebook: <https://www.momscleanairforce.org/>

From: Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>
Date: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 12:15 PM
To: wilborn.janay@epa.gov <wilborn.janay@epa.gov>

Cc: Almeta Cooper <acooper@momscleanairforce.org>

Subject: Follow up re Request for quote from Daniel Blackman for Moms Clean Air Force

Janay

At the end of the Advancing Equity session held at the CBC Annual Legislative Conference last week, we had the chance for a quick conversation about my request for a quote of 50 words or less from Daniel Blackman for a Moms Clean Air Force article. Regional Administrator Blackman was kind enough to agree to provide a quote and directed me to work with you to connect with the EPA comms person (Brandy). I am following up to ask you to connect me with her and so that we can publish the article this week.

It would be helpful if the quote aligns with Mr. Blackman's remarks at the session about the importance of getting the word out to communities, especially Black, Brown and low wealth communities and for them to know what resources are available from the EPA Office of Climate Justice. Our article is tentatively titled, *What you should know about the EPA Office of Climate Justice*. We also intend to include a link to all the regional offices so that readers will know how to contact their respective EPA regional office.

For your quick reference about Moms Clean Air Force you can find our website [here](#) and for information about our Georgia activity please read [here](#).

Thank you in advance for your help. I look forward to working more with you and Mr. Blackman.
Almeta

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